

Remarks

Applicants have amended the specification and claims to correct informalities noted by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed on August 8, 2006. In the Action, claims 1-4, 9-11, 13 and 16-19 were allowed, and remaining claims 5-8, 12, 14 and 15 were objected to as improper multiple dependent claims. A formal objection to the Specification was made due to instances in which reference was made to numbered claims. The Action also notes the official preference for certain section headings.

Each of these formalities is now corrected. No new matter is presented.

The claims are amended so that no multiple dependent claim depends from another multiple dependent claim. Inasmuch as improper multiple dependent claims are counted as one, the corrections to claims 5, 7 and 8 increase the total number of dependent claims by 5 (from 25 to 30). The required fee is submitted by EFS Deposit Account charge. Please charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 04-1679.

The references to numbered claims are canceled in the Specification. Brief section headings are inserted.

Applicant also takes this opportunity to amend the claims for US practice by omitting reference numbers in the claims and abstract, and by replacing instances of the European form "characterized in that . . ." with -- wherein . . . --.

The foregoing changes are formal. No new matter is presented.

The claims are in condition for allowance. Formal allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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